VBA: Create ArcMap Bookmarks From Features

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Bookmarks allow you to quickly navigate to pre-defined geographic extent rectangles and can be extremely useful for data quality assessment when your data is located across a large area.

This script was developed to create an Area of Interest (AOI) bookmark that can be accessed from the View menu in ArcMap. It was written specifically to create a bookmark for each state highway, each highway's multiple parts (where the route is broken into discontiguous parts), and each part's start and end point

I used this against the SGID93. Transportation. UDOTRoutes_Calibrated_EP route layer but you could modify this to work with just about anything. To run, make sure the layer you want to generate the bookmarks from is at the top of the ArcMap Table of Contents (TOC). Paste the code and make modifications (sort field, buffer size for end points, the way the AOI name is generated, etc). Most of the length of this script is from handling multipart features differently...it could be greatly simplified as needed.

Bookmarks will be added so they can be viewed from both the Bookmark manager and the View-->Bookmarks menu item. Here are the results (at right).

Bookmark files can also be saved and loaded as .dat files through the ArcMap bookmark manager.

Download the state route .dat bookmark file

Public Sub AddSpatialBookMarks()

Dim pMxDoc As IMxDocument

Dim pMap As IMap

Dim pActiveView As IActiveView

Dim pAreaOfInterest As IAOIBookmark

Dim pMapBookmarks As IMapBookmarks

Dim pFLayer As IFeatureLayer

Dim pFC As IFeatureClass

Dim pTableSort As ITableSort

Dim pFCursor As IFeatureCursor

Dim pFeature As IFeature

Dim pPolyline As IPolyline

Dim pPolylinePart As IGeometry

Dim pEnv As IEnvelope

Dim pCurve As ICurve

Dim pPoint As IPoint

Dim pGC As IGeometryCollection

Dim x As Long

Set pMxDoc = Application.Document

Set pMap = pMxDoc.FocusMap

Set pActiveView = pMap

Set pFLayer = pMap.Layer(0)

Set pFC = pFLayer.FeatureClass

'sort features by field for alphanumeric ordering

Set pTableSort = New TableSort

With pTableSort

Set .Table = pFC

.Fields = "LABEL"

.Ascending("LABEL") = True

.Sort Nothing

End With

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Set pFCursor = pTableSort.Rows
Set pFeature = pFCursor.NextFeature
'outer loop, iterate through route features
Do Until pFeature Is Nothing
 Set pPolyline = pFeature.ShapeCopy
 Set pGC = pPolyline
 'for multipart features, create a bookmark for overall geometry
 If pGC.GeometryCount > 1 Then
   Set pAreaOfInterest = New AOIBookmark
   Set pAreaOfInterest.Location = pPolyline.Envelope
   pAreaOfInterest.Name = pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(all)"
   Set pMapBookmarks = pMap
   pMapBookmarks.AddBookmark pAreaOfInterest
 End If
 'inner loop, iterate through parts
 For x = 0 To pGC.GeometryCount - 1
   'create link for individual parts
   Set pPolylinePart = pGC.Geometry(x)
   Set pAreaOfInterest = New AOIBookmark
   Set pAreaOfInterest.Location = pPolylinePart.Envelope
   If pGC.GeometryCount = 1 Then
      pAreaOfInterest.Name = pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(all)"
   Else
      pAreaOfInterest.Name = " " & pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(part " & x & ")"
   End If
   Set pMapBookmarks = pMap
   pMapBookmarks.AddBookmark pAreaOfInterest
   'create link for individual part start points
   Set pCurve = pPolylinePart
   Set pPoint = pCurve.FromPoint
   Set pEnv = New Envelope
   pEnv.PutCoords pPoint.x - 1000, pPoint.y - 1000, pPoint.x + 1000, pPoint.y + 1000
   Set pAreaOfInterest = New AOIBookmark
   Set pAreaOfInterest.Location = pEnv
   If pGC.GeometryCount = 1 Then
      pAreaOfInterest.Name = " " & pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(start)"
     pAreaOfInterest.Name = "
                                 " & pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(start part " & x & ")"
   End If
   Set pMapBookmarks = pMap
   pMapBookmarks.AddBookmark pAreaOfInterest
   'create link for individual part end points
   Set pPoint = pCurve.ToPoint
   Set pEnv = New Envelope
   pEnv.PutCoords pPoint.x - 1000, pPoint.y - 1000, pPoint.x + 1000, pPoint.y + 1000
   Set pAreaOfInterest = New AOIBookmark
   Set pAreaOfInterest.Location = pEnv
   If pGC.GeometryCount = 1 Then
      pAreaOfInterest.Name = " " & pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(end)"
   Else
      pAreaOfInterest.Name = "
                                 " & pFeature.value(pFC.FindField("LABEL")) & " " & "(end part " & x & ")"
   End If
```

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Set pMapBookmarks = pMap pMapBookmarks.AddBookmark pAreaOfInterest

Next x Set pFeature = pFCursor.NextFeature

Loop

End Sub